



Executive Officer's Report

1. Board's Sunrise Bill

- Senate Bill (SB) 539 (Price, Chapter 338, Statutes of 2011) – On September 26, 2011, Governor Brown signed SB 539 which extends the operation of the Board **until January 1, 2016**. The new law also contains the following provisions:
 - Changes the terminology that the Board “approves” schools rather than accredits them.
 - Clarifies that employers of LVNs and PTs must report resignation for cause.
 - Requires employment agencies and nursing registries to report to the Board LVNs or PTs “rejection from assignment.”
 - Clarifies that the Board may inspect or “review” all VN and PT schools as deemed necessary.

2. Board Member Update

- Vacant Positions – There are currently three vacant board member positions – one (1) Licensed Vocational Nurse member and two (2) public members. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact the Governor's Appointment Secretary or go to the Governor's website.

3. Budget Update

- Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) – The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) is submitting two “departmental” BCPs for Budget Year 2012/13.
 - Breeze & Credit Card Processing BCPs – To obtain the required funds to implement this major information technology project. DCA indicates that the Board's implementation of Breeze is tentatively scheduled for March 2013.
 - Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI) BCP – Due to the State Hiring Freeze, none of the health care boards' limited term (LT) positions could be filled to implement elements of CPEI. Therefore, the DCA is requesting a two year extension on all CPEI LT positions.

4. Education Division Update

➤ School Programs

	VN Program	PT Program	Totals
# Accredited Programs	198	15	213
# Approved Programs	3	1	4
Total Programs:	201	16	217
# Proposed Programs	121	10	131

- Submission of New Proposals and School Materials for Nursing Education Consultant (NEC) Review – The Board asks for your cooperation when submitting new proposals and other materials to your assigned NEC. Please work with your NEC to establish mutually agreeable deadlines. New proposals may take at least twelve (12) months or longer for review, depending on the quality and completeness of the proposal. Although the Board's Education Division hired two new NECs, extensive training is still required. At the conclusion of the applicable training, the Board looks forward to reducing the time it takes to review and analyze new programs as well as reducing the time it takes to assist current programs. The Board thanks you for your cooperation and understanding.
- 2011 Director Forum -- On September 8, 2011, the Education Division convened the Southern California Director Forum. The Northern California Director Forum was convened in the DCA Hearing Room in Sacramento, CA on October 6, 2011. Forum attendees included approximately 450 directors, instructors, administrators, and owners of accredited, approved, and proposed vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs. Representatives from professional organizations also were in attendance. Attendees received critical information relative to: Financial Assistance; Availability of program grants from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development's Healthcare Workforce Development Division; Availability of student financial aid from the Health Professions Education Foundation; Strategies for Development of a Quality Curriculum; and Effective Strategies to Enhance Student Achievement.
- Stakeholder Surveys -- On October 26, 2011, surveys were disseminated to vocational nursing and psychiatric technician programs and clinical facilities employing LVNs and PTs. The purpose of the surveys is the collection of critical information relative to the utilization of LVNs and PTs and identification of educational modifications to enhance the preparation, utilization, and employability of safe and competent LVNs and PTs.

5. Licensing Division Update

- Online License Renewal Project – Board staff continues to work with the DCA Office of Information Services and the DCA Accounting Office to work out the final details for implementing the Online License Renewal application. The Board anticipates the Online License Renewal services will be available to licensees by January 2012.
- Retroactive Fingerprinting Audit – In July 2011, Board staff sent over 6,000 letters to licensees who checked "Yes" on their license renewal form stating they had their fingerprints on file with the Board but did not. Each licensee was required to complete and

sign a Declaration and include a copy of the Live Scan processed to validate that the fingerprint records were submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ) as specified. A large majority of these licensees complied with the DOJ and Federal Bureau of Investigation requirements. For the licensees still out of compliance, follow up action is underway. Board staff plans to have this project completed by the end of the year.

6. Examination Update

➤ Examination Development

- On September 23, 2011, Cheryl Anderson, SNEC, completed a final analysis and evaluation of examination items for the 2012 Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination. Selected items are consistent with established professional and psychometric standards and Board requirements.
- On October 31, 2011, the Board and the Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) convened the 2011 Psychiatric Technician Item Development Conference. The overall purpose of the conference was the development of examination items consistent with the needs of the item bank and approved Psychiatric Technician Test Plan. This conference is the first step in the development of the 2013 Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination. Subject Matter Experts included psychiatric technicians and registered nurses employed in the education and practice arenas. Kelly Parrish, Project Manager, represented OPES. Cheryl Anderson, Supervising Nursing Education Consultant represented the Board.

➤ Examination Statistics - Current Calendar Year to Date (1/1/11 to 9/30/11)

	VN Program	PT Program
Average Annual Pass Rate for First-Time Graduates	76%	78%
Overall Pass Rate	57%	62%
Total# of First-Time Graduates Tested Year to Date:	6,451	432

7. Liaison Update

- DCA Director Monthly Conference Calls – On 9/13/11 and 10/11/11, DCA Director Brian Stiger conducted monthly telephone conference calls with all of the Board Presidents to provide an update of DCA activities. President John Vertido and/or the Executive Officer Teresa Bello-Jones participated in these monthly conference calls. Discussion topics focused on the state hiring freeze exemptions, board member appointments, budget change proposals, Breeze, legislation and the expert consultant contract requirements.
- DCA Enforcement Academy – On 9/22/11, John Vertido made a presentation at DCA's Enforcement Academy. John educated the attendees as to what information Board Members review prior to making a decision regarding a disciplined individual's license or probation status. No travel expenses were incurred.

- Cuesta College PT Program – On 9/23/11, Kevin Baucom made a presentation to the students and faculty of Cuesta College regarding the function of the Board. His speech was followed by a Question and Answer period. No travel expenses were incurred.
- DCA Director's Quarterly Meeting – On 10/11/11, Teresa Bello-Jones attended this meeting. Topics discussed included a discussion of the impact of SB 541 – Expert Consultants led by Dorothea Johnson, Deputy Director, Office of Legal Affairs; a Review of the Financial Integrity and State Managers Accountability Act led by Randy McClendon, Department of Finance – Office of State Audits and Evaluations; and an Administrative Update led by Pam Wortman, Deputy Director, Office of Administrative and Information Services.
- DCA Budget Analyst Meet and Greet – On 10/13/11, Teresa Bello-Jones, Marina Okimoto, Angelina Martin, Lynne Shively, and Linda Ruyters met with the Board's new DCA Budget Analyst, Brian Skewis. Discussion topics included review of the Board's appropriation authority, current fund conditions, and the freeze exemption process.
- California Association of Psychiatric Technician Educators (CAPTE) Conference – On 10/20/11, Todd D'Braunstein addressed attendees of CAPTE's annual conference on the subject of "Recent Developments with the Board." No travel expenses were incurred.
- Healthcare Workforce -- On October 25, 2011, Ann Shuman, NEC, RA., attended a meeting of the California Health Workforce Development Council. Goals of the meeting included solicitation of public comment and critical discussion relative to the development of a comprehensive strategy for health workforce development in California.
- National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) – On November 7, 8 2011, Cheryl Anderson attended via teleconference a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice. The purpose of the meeting was discussion of the development of the nursing workforce to meet the health and healthcare challenges facing the nation and articulation of a strategic cohesive vision and agenda to meet identified challenges. NACNEP is a part of the U.S. Bureau of Health Professions/Divisions of Nursing.

8. Personnel Update

- Board Vacancies – Due to the State Hiring Freeze, the Board currently has **26.0** positions vacant for a **33%** vacancy rate (i.e., 26.0 vacant out of 78.3 total positions). The positions vacant are in the following Divisions:
 - 13.5 Enforcement Division
 - 10.5 Licensing & Administrative Services
 - 2.0 Education Division

Efforts to recruit from within the DCA have not proven successful. The Board needs and requested several state hiring freeze exemptions which require the DCA, the State & Consumer Services Agency and the Department of Finance's approval.

- Freeze Exemptions – On 10/20/11, the Board received notification that 2.0 Nursing Education Consultants were approved. Efforts are underway to rapidly fill the vacant positions.
- Recruitment Efforts: Assistant Executive Officer – The DCA Selection Services Unit is responsible for coordinating the advertisement and screening of the applications received for this position. The Executive Officer and Board President plan to conduct the hiring interviews in early November.
- Retirement
 - Marina Okimoto, Assistant Executive Officer, is retiring and her last work day is 11/18/11.
- Departures
 - Phyllis Deherrera, Office Services Supervisor III, will be promoted to a Staff Services Analyst (Limited Term) at the DCA Accounting Office effective 11/21/11.
- In-House Promotions
 - Chris Jensen, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, promoted to a Special Investigator effective 10/1/11.
 - Nicole Novoa, Staff Services Analyst (Limited Term), promoted to a Special Investigator effective 10/1/11.
- New Hires
 - Nicole Ricks was hired as the Supervising Special Investigator I effective 10/1/11.
 - Samantha Hariri was hired as a Special Investigator effective 11/1/11.

9. Other Important Issues

- Customer Service Surveys – The Board distributes a “Customer Service Survey” to solicit feedback regarding how the Board is accomplishing its mission and goals. The information is used to develop the Board’s Strategic Plan and is included in our Sunset Review Reports. Please complete the survey form and leave it on the table at the back of the room. We are very interested in obtaining any recommendations you make regarding improving effectiveness.

(10/24/11)